



MEETING MINUTES / 17 MARCH 2020

****MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA TELEPHONE DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS****

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Excused:

Unexcused:

Guests: Courtney Stewart (Deputy Secretary of State), Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Matthew Brown (Wilmington VAMC), Archie Poling (Delaware Veterans Home), Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Kim McMullen, MaryAnne Donaghy (Biden Institute)

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:

Moment of silence for:

Service Members abroad

Martin Luther King Jr

Wished Chairwoman Showell good health as she's "under the weather"

MEETING MINUTES:

October minutes were motioned by McMullen approved by Magner

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Virginia Yelland, Assistant to the Director

No report

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Tina Foskey, Director:

No report

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

No report

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Magner:

Interments – 79 (+2)

Mentioned how some flagpoles are vacant, in need of veteran service organization flags

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 22 (-3)

Expansion project is going on, will produce 1600 columbarium niches

High visibility internment was broadcast on the local news

- Commission wasn't informed and the director will ensure the cemetery administrator keeps leadership aware

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Positive meeting with the veterans' home dental suite selection team

Brain Injury Council, through House Bill 14, is seeking motorcycle helmet protection for all riders

- Delaware only requires helmet wear during the safety test but not after

Delaware needs an advanced brain injury treatment facility

Delaware does have intermediate brain injury treatment facilities

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Legislative recommendations, thanks to Commissioner Sarg, are ready for presentation

- Awaiting a date to present to the joint veterans affairs committee

House Bill 265, Property Tax Exemption for 100% Service Connected, was voted out of veterans committee

- Urged commissioners to speak to their legislators about support

(Sarg) Recommendations will be signed by myself and Commissioner Showell

- We need to get sponsors for these recommendations

- Signatures quantify the product

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: **Applications 12; Granted 7 (58.3%); Awarded \$8,452.60; Balance - \$28,387.00**

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

25 February: Attended Representative Yearick's town hall meeting, discussed legislative agenda and HB 265 – 100% service connected property tax exemption

28 February: Spoke with Representative Bonni about legislative agenda

5 March: Attended chapter executive committee meeting

8 March: Met with Dover AFB Medical Group Commander to discuss proposed change to retiree medical care

12 March: Attended chapter meeting, briefed on legislative issues and swore in new officers

21 – 23 Apr: Division 1 Professional Airman Conference, Dayton, OH

Vacant (American Legion - AL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

20 February: Attended Veterans Home Admission meeting

22 – 26 February: Attended DAV Mid-Winter Conference, Washington DC

8 – 9 March: Attended DAV District 4 Conference, Atlantic City NJ

10 March: Attended Wilmington VA VSO meeting

13 – 15 March: Attended DAV New York State Executive Committee meeting

19 February – 12 March: Service Officers submitted 76 claims

Vacant (Korean War Veterans)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

4 March: Conducted Dover Veterans Crisis Awareness Challenge meeting
- Developing response cards with key contact information
- Working with Wilmington VA to develop a network of Crisis Information Education Specialists

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

20 February: Attended Delaware Veterans Home Admissions meeting

4 March: Attended Veterans Crisis Awareness meeting

12 March: Attended Interstate Compact Council for Military Children meeting

12 March: Attended Delaware Veterans Home dental clinic planning meeting

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

27 February: Chapter 9377 held general meeting, donated \$450.00 to Christ United Methodist Church in Elsmere

11 March: Chapter 1787 donated \$100.00 to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 850's Canines Assisting Service Heroes program

20 March: Will present JROTC Leadership Award to Mount Pleasant High School's selected cadet during their military ball

27 – 29 July: National Convention, Charlestown, WV

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

Nothing to present

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

25 February: Attended Military Women's Tea Committee meeting

25 February: Attended DelVets Post 2 Memorial Day meeting

4 March: Co-Chair for Dover Mayors Crisis Awareness meeting

7 March: Attended DelVets Post 2 Installation Dinner

11 March: Met with DelVets Post 2 Commander for updates on Memorial Day Ceremony

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans' associations)

Nothing to report

TERM COMPLETION:

Bradley – 21 April 2020

Newman – 21 April 2020

EVENTS:

29 January / 1200 - 1430: Table Display, Legislative Hall

12 February / 1730: Military Affaire, The Landings, Dover AFB

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Submission of Legislative Concerns (CLOSED)

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

CLOSED SESSION:

None

SPECIAL SESSION:

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 17 March 2020 at 1000

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs